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Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 H-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05

EB-07 /065 R

DRAFTED BY EA/VN:OABARTLEY:AOA
APPROVED BY O - MR. ROSENBLATT
S/S- MR. ORTIZ
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
H
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R 220035Z MAR 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SAIGON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 065159

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, ELAB, VS

SUBJECT: CALL BY CVT PRESIDENT TRAN QUOC BUU ON ACTING SECRETARY.

1. ACTING SECRETARY INGERSOLL RECEIVED BUU MARCH 20. NGUYEN DUC DAT (INTERPRETER), BARNES (AAFLI SAIGON), BOWIE (S/IL), ROSENBLATT (D) AND BARTLEY (EA/VN) ALSO PRESENT.

2. BUU SAID THE PURPOSE OF HIS TRIP WAS TO EXPLAIN TO CONGRESS THE CURRENT TRAGIC SITUATION IN VIET-NAM. SAID HE HAD SEEN SENATORS SPARKMAN AND HUMPHREY AND CONGRESSMEN FLYNT AND CHAPPELL,ALL OF WHOM HAD PROMISED SUPPORT. HE HAD ALSO CALLED ON CONGRESSWOMAN ABZUG. WHEN TOLD THAT HE REPRESENTED THE WORKING PEOPLE OF VIET-NAM, WHO NEEDED HELP, ABZUG SAID SHE WOULD SUPPORT THE PEOPLE BUT WAS FLATLY OPPOSED TO ANY MORE ARMS AID, WHICH PERPETUATED THE KILLING. BUU RETORTED THAT FIRST IT WOULD BE NECESSARY TO
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GET THE COMMUNISTS TO STOP THEIR ATTACKS.

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3. ACCORDING TO BUU AND BARNES, SENATOR HUMPHREY WAS VERY RECEPTIVE AND PROMISED TO DO ALL HE COULD TO GET ADDITIONAL MILITARY AID. HOWEVER, HE SAID NOT TO WORRY TOO MUCH ABOUT THE DOLS 300 MILLION SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST SINCE THE FISCAL YEAR WAS NEARLY OVER. STATED THAT HE WAS THINKING ABOUT

THE DOLS 1,293 BILLION REQUEST FOR FY 1976. HUMPHREY DID NOT COMMIT HIMSELF TO SPECIFIC AMOUNTS FOR EITHER THE SUPPLEMENTAL OR THE FY76 BILL.

4. BUU AND BARNES RELATED THAT HUMPHREY HAD RECOMMENDED THAT BUU SEE SENATORS KENNEDY AND SYMINGTON AND CONGRESSMAN FRASER. BUU SAID HE WOULD TRY AND THAT HE ALSO HAD AN APPOINTMENT WITH SENATOR JACKSON.

5. HUMPHREY ALSO RECOMMENDED TO BUU THAT HE TRY TO GET U.S. LABOR TO BE MORE OPENLY HELPFUL WITH CONGRESS. THE ACTING SECRETARY SECONDED THAT RECOMMENDATION AND SAID THAT GEORGE MEANY HAD BEEN VERY SUPPORTIVE AND BARNES ADDED THAT HE WAS GOING WITH BUU TOMORROW IN SEEING AFL-CIO'S GOLDBERG TO REQUEST MORE HELP.

6. THE ACTING SECRETARY SAID THAT THE ATMOSPHERE IN CONGRESS HAD NOT BEEN GOOD BUT THAT HE HOPED THE NVA OFFENSIVE MIGHT CHANGE SOME OPINIONS. HE ADDED THAT THE PRESIDENT, THE SECRETARY AND "ALL OF US" WERE PUSHING HARD FOR HIGHER ASSISTANCE LEVELS. HE NOTED THAT THERE IS AN IMPORTANT GROUP OF FRESHMAN CONGRESSMEN WHO THINK THEY WERE ELECTED TO CUT OFF AID TO EVERY COUNTRY AND THAT IT WAS NECESSARY TO WORK ON THEM.

7. THE MEETING CLOSED WITH BUU'S EXPRESSIONS OF GRATITUDE TO THE DEPARTMENT ON BEHALF OF VIETNAMESE LABOR AND THE ACTING SECRETARY'S GOOD WISHES. INGERSOLL

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To: SAIGON
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